



Raptors through Hummingbirds

Fermilab reported a Northern Goshawk, and Kishwaukee had one during count-week. White Pines had a Golden Eagle, while Lisle Arboretum reported one during count-week. Fourteen counts reported Merlin, 11 reported Peregrine Falcon, and Champaign County had the state's only Prairie Falcon.

Shorebirds put in a very impressive appearance – Lesser Yellowlegs, four Dunlin, and 54 Least Sandpipers at Rend Lake, two Dunlin at Union County, 10 Least Sandpipers and 3 Dunlin at Newton, two Spotted Sandpipers, three Least Sandpipers, and a dowitcher species at Mermet Lake, a Lesser Yellowlegs at Horseshoe Lake, and five American Woodcock at Crab Orchard NWR. As would be expected, 928 Killdeer on 32 counts and 304 Wilson's Snipe on 18 counts were also well above average. Gull totals were fairly typical, with nine counts reporting Thayer's, one (Chicago Lakefront) reporting Iceland Gull, 5 reporting Lesser Black-backed, 2 reporting Glaucous and 2 reporting Great Black-backed. The count-week Thayer's Gull at Collinsville and the Lesser Black-backed at Kishwaukee were notable. Ten Forster's Terns at Rend Lake were remarkable.

Eurasian Collared Doves were reported on 41 counts this year, a new record. Three counts reported

Red Crossbill flock, Sand Ridge State Forest, Mason County, 5 November 2012.

Photo by Tyler Funk

Red crossbills were found on several Illinois CBCs, including at this location.

a total of six Barn Owls, with four at Hennepin. The only Snowy Owl was a count-week bird at Thorn Creek. Long-eared Owls were only reported on 12 counts this year, but 19 counts reported Northern Sawwhets. Kishwaukee had a Rufous Hummingbird, the second year in a row that this bird has been found in the state.

Flycatchers through Finches

Eleven counts reported 55 Eastern Phoebe's, with the one at Fermilab the farthest north. Only seven counts reported a total of nine Loggerhead Shrikes, down from last season's total. Only 30 Northern Shrikes were reported as well. American Crow numbers were down from last year's record total, but they were still reported on all 67 counts, one of 10 species for which that was true. Fish Crows went unrecorded this season. Sixty counts reported a total of 11,713 Horned Larks, both well above the recent average.

Kankakee Valley again had a lone Northern Rough-winged Swallow.

Five counts reported House Wrens, while Crab Orchard had a Sedge Wren and Newton had a Marsh Wren. Only two counts reported Gray Catbirds, but Crab Orchard's 25 Brown Thrashers were actually second to Horseshoe Lake's 53! American Pipit numbers were down from the last few years, with 41 on seven counts. A Bohemian Waxwing showed up in time for the Evanston count.

Three counts reported Orange-crowned Warblers, and two counts reported Pine Warblers. Spotted Towhees were at Meredosia and Union County. Four counts reported Vesper Sparrows, eight reported Le Conte's Sparrows, six reported Lincoln's Sparrows, and three reported Harris's Sparrows. Western Meadowlarks were reported on five counts and Brewer's Blackbirds on seven.

It was a very good season for winter finches – 49 Red Crossbills on eight counts, 19 White-winged Crossbills on Springfield, 494 Common Redpolls on 19 counts, lone Hoary Redpolls on Kishwaukee and Evanston, and six Evening Grosbeaks at Thorn Creek. In keeping with this invasion, 48 counts reported Pine Siskin.

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